

What is compost?

Compost is made by combining materials like leaves, grass clippings, vegetable and fruit scraps, wood chips, and coffee grounds, and allowing them to break down. The result is a crumbly, dark brown humus material with a soil-like texture. Compost has many of the nutrients that plants need. It can be mixed into the soil or used as a mulch.

How to use your compost

- To plant a lawn or garden, mix 1 to 2 inches of compost into the top 6 inches of soil.
- To maintain a lawn or garden sprinkle a half-inch layer of sifted compost on it once a year and water it in.
- Use compost as about 1/3 of potting soil to mix to add nutrients and to control fungus.

Easy, no-cost compost recipe

1. Pick a 4 ft. by 8 ft. area, preferably shaded, where water does not collect when it rains.
2. Cover half the area with a 6 in. layer of leaves. Water thoroughly.
3. Add a 2 in. layer of grass clippings and/or fruit and vegetable scraps, and add a dash of soil.
4. Mix this layer lightly into the layer below it with a hoe or cultivator.
5. Top with a 2-inch layer of leaves and water thoroughly.
6. Repeat steps 3 through 5 as ingredients are available. Never leave food near the surface. Build to 3 feet high as soon as possible.
7. Turn the whole pile over with a hay fork or shovel every 2 to 3 weeks, adding water as needed to make the whole pile moist like a wrung out sponge.
8. Compost is well done when most of the original ingredients have broken down and when it smells like rich soil.

Training Program

The Master Composter Training Program is designed to train committed individuals who want to gain composting expertise and assist in educating their community in the area of backyard composting.



Gardens at Rock Prairie
Elementary Demonstration Garden

The program provides an opportunity for hands-on experience, lectures, by guest speakers, instructional books and videos, and an overview of the latest composting tools and techniques.



Bins at Brazos Center Demonstration Garden

The classroom sessions and field days cover topics such as:

- the biology of the compost systems
- compost trouble-shooting
- equipment and bin selection
- effective community outreach

After the class the Master Composters then volunteer 20 hours teaching friends and neighbors in the community. Completion of the class and volunteer hours leads to certification as an official Master Composter.

Who:

Anyone interested in learning more about backyard composting

What:

An intensive backyard composting course, including lectures, slides, videos, composting, demonstrations, and field trips.

When and Where:

All three days must be taken.

Cost:

\$15 (please send check payable to BVSWMA.)

Brazos Valley Solid Waste Mgmt Agency
P.O. Box 9960
College Station, TX 77842

Phone: (979) 764-3806

Fax: (979) 764-3822

Each Participant Will Receive:

- Instructional materials
- Brazos Valley Compost Corps T-shirt
- Compost bin
- Saturday lunch